
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6406 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM.

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the electronic prescription drug monitoring program by requiring prescription information reporting by (1) out-of-state pharmacies that ship, mail, or deliver prescription drugs into the state and (2) any other drug dispensing practitioner. It exempts physicians from having to report dispensing samples of controlled substances to patients. Practitioners include certain medical professionals (physicians, dentists, veterinarians, and podiatrists), researchers, pharmacies, hospitals, and other people or institutions permitted to dispense drugs in the course of professional practice or research. Currently, pharmacies and out-patient pharmacies in hospitals or institutions must report information.

Currently, the program collects information on schedules II through V controlled substances. The bill allows the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner to identify additional products to be included in the program.

The bill requires a weekly report from covered pharmacies and practitioners, rather than the twice monthly report currently required.

The bill prohibits any person or employer from preventing a participating prescribing practitioner or pharmacy from requesting controlled substance prescription information from DCP.

The bill requires practitioners who distribute, administer, or dispense controlled substances, or who seek to do so, to register for access to the program, in a manner DCP's chooses, in addition to the current requirement for such practitioners to register with DCP. These practitioners include certain medical professionals (physicians,

dentists, veterinarians, podiatrists, optometrists, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and nurse-midwives), scientific investigators, hospitals, and other people or institutions who dispense in the course of professional practice or research.

*House Amendment "A" exempts physicians from having to report dispensing samples of controlled substances to patients.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

This program requires DCP to collect prescription information to prevent improper or illegal drug use. Pharmacists must electronically report certain drug information to DCP, including the dispensing date, dispenser identification and prescription number, and certain patient identification data.

Related Bills

HB 6389, reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, also requires practitioners who distribute, administer, or dispense controlled substances, or who seek to do so, to register for access to the program.

HB 5906, reported favorably by the General Law Committee, requires practitioners who distribute, prescribe, administer, or dispense controlled substances, or who seek to do so, to access the program and review their patient's history with controlled substances before doing so.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/12/2013)